

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

New Orleans cops get prison for slayings during Katrina
— PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 16 APRIL 23, 2012

New Zealand port workers beat back bosses' lockout

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—"It was a victory, but there's a long way to go yet," Brian Muncic, a member of the Maritime Union told the *Militant* April 5. After a five-week fight, the Ports of Auckland agreed March 30 to lift its lockout of 235 union members and return to negotiations.

An Employment Court ruling days

earlier forced the company to back down from its plans to contract out union jobs.

The port workers had all returned to work by April 6. Engineers (machinists) returned one day earlier.

Port workers struck February 24 and set up round-the-clock pickets after refusing to accept the bosses' demands for

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Militant/Patrick Brown

Port workers march back to work at Auckland, New Zealand, port April 5 after winning five-week battle against city-owned port's attempt to impose "flexible" hours and subcontracting.

Join int'l campaign to expand readership of workers' paper

BY LOUIS MARTIN

With this issue, the *Militant* launches its spring 2012 international subscription drive. The eight-week campaign runs from April 14 to June 10, with a goal of 2,400.

Through the drive, members of the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Leagues abroad and other support-

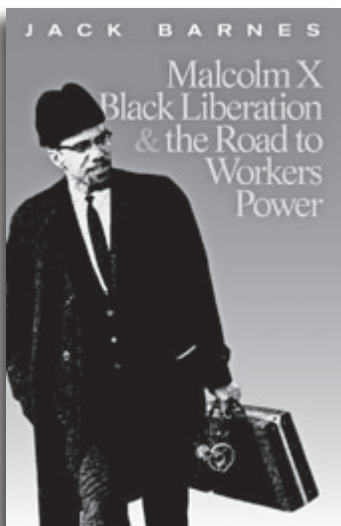
ers of the *Militant* will distribute the paper broadly in the working class, with steady weekly sales of the paper and revolutionary books as the focus of their political work. A central component of this effort is systematic selling door to door in working-class neighborhoods, with special attention

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Special offer

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes



"Don't start with Blacks as an oppressed nationality. Start with the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. From the Civil War to today, the record is mind-boggling. It's the strength and resilience, not the oppression, that bowls you over."

—Jack Barnes

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The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning by Jack Barnes
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Prosecute vigilante for lynching of Trayvon!

'We won't back down, we'll keep marching'



Militant/Tom Baumann

April 4 march in Miami demanding arrest of George Zimmerman for killing Trayvon Martin.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

SANFORD, Fla.—Protests continue here, across Florida, and around the country demanding the arrest and prosecution of George Zimmerman in the lynching of Trayvon Martin.

KEEP THE PRESSURE ON!

—Editorial p. 10

Nearly seven weeks after the neighborhood watch vigilante shot and killed the Black high school student, Zimmerman has still not been charged with any crime.

Angela Corey, the special state prosecutor assigned to the Martin case, announced April 9 that she

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As we go to press ...

An initial victory—Special prosecutor Angela Corey bowed to pressure from weeks of popular mobilizations, charging George Zimmerman April 11 with second-degree murder. He is now in police custody. "We will march and march and march until the right thing is done," said Tracy Martin, Trayvon's father.

NYC police spy unit targets Black, other political groups

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK—A March 23 Associated Press story, based on recently released documents from the New York Police Department Intelligence Unit, exposes how the city's cops use spies

and informants to follow and target groups protesting police brutality, Black rights organizations, immigrant rights groups, anti-war coalitions and other political activists.

The documents have also raised a longstanding debate among oppo-

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Newburgh, NY family vows: 'cops will answer for murder'

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEWBURGH, N.Y.—After cops here killed Michael Lembhard, 22, on March 7 in the kitchen of his sister's house, family members decided to fight back. Since then they have reached out to the community for sup-

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- Socialist Workers candidates join working-class struggles 9

Available from distributors on page 6

‘In jail we continued the fight to free Puerto Rico’

BY SETH GALINSKY

When asked how many times he’d been placed in solitary confinement during the 30 years he was locked up in U.S. prisons, former Puerto Rican political prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres hesitates.

“A rough guess would be at least a couple dozen times,” he says in an April 5 phone interview from Camuy, Puerto Rico. “I spent every Christmas in solitary for years.”

“It’s meant to demoralize you and break you,” Torres notes.

Torres was arrested in April 1980 along with 10 other supporters of Puerto Rican independence. They were framed up on charges of “seditious conspiracy,” armed robbery, and “terrorism,” accused of being members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation of Puerto Rico. At one point during his June 1980 trial, Torres was gagged for speaking Spanish in the courtroom.

In 1999 President William Clinton offered to pardon or commute the sentences of 14 Puerto Rican political prisoners, but not Torres or Haydée Beltrán, who was arrested with Torres. Clinton said Torres was a leader of the FALN and was for “revolution against the United States.”

Oscar López Rivera, framed up on similar charges in 1981, refused the offer of clemency, mainly because it was not offered to Torres or Beltrán. Torres was released on parole July 26, 2010.

Far from being broken, Torres has continued to speak out for independence for Puerto Rico, which is still a U.S. colony, and for freedom for Oscar

López and other Puerto Rican political prisoners. He has made three trips to the U.S. since his release, to New York, Chicago and the West Coast to promote the campaign to free López.

Torres also became a ceramic artist in prison. His art can be seen at cemiceramica.com.

Although Torres faced years of harassment in prison, many of the other Puerto Rican political prisoners had it worse, Torres says.

The U.S. prison population “exploded from when I first went to prison,” Torres noted. “The Bureau of Prisons couldn’t build prisons fast enough and they started building specialized prisons where the whole prison was an isolation unit, like in Marion, Illinois.”

“That’s where they put Oscar López, right from the beginning,” he says. “And two of the women political prisoners, Haydée Beltrán and Ida Luz Rodríguez, were kept in total isolation” for months in West Virginia.

Political work in prison

“When we went to jail we knew that as revolutionaries it was our responsibility to continue the struggle the best way we could,” Torres explains. “That translated mostly to looking for ways to raise awareness among other prisoners, the social prisoners.

“The majority of prisoners hadn’t heard about the independence movement. Some thought we were a U.S. state, others thought we were already independent. But with rare exceptions, I was able to present the facts so that people could understand.”



National Boricua Human Rights Network

Outpouring of support welcomes Carlos Alberto Torres (in dark shirt) in Puerto Rico, in July 2010, after his release from 30 years in U.S. jails for defending Puerto Rican independence.

Torres also got involved in fights to improve prison conditions. “In my first years in jail in Pontiac, Illinois, we actually put out a clandestine mimeographed newspaper, the *Emancipator*, which addressed some of the problems.” Over the years he also participated in organizing classes for illiterate inmates as well as AIDS awareness, Black history, and violence against women programs.

In all the dozen or so prisons where Torres was held, he reports, prisoners would receive newspapers published in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, including the *Militant* from time to time.

“We always shared them. The papers never made it to the garbage can. It was a newspaper train,” he says. “Sometimes someone would pass an issue back to you years later.”

In jail with one of Cuban Five

In February 2002, while Torres was in the Federal Correctional Institution in Oxford, Wisc., Fernando González, one of the Cuban Five, was transferred there.

“A Cuban guy who had left Cuba during Mariel and was being held on immigration charges told me a new Cuban had arrived,” said Torres.

“Somehow we bumped into each other and we got to talk. It was enlightening for me because although I was a bit familiar with the case of the five, I didn’t know how they were arrested and what their experience had been, how they were sentenced.

“Fernando had an endless well of books and he would share them,” Torres

recalls. “You read constantly in prison so to have a person who has all these books, it was great for me. During our five years together we became close friends.”

Torres says he is optimistic about the fight for Puerto Rican independence and to free Oscar López.

In his tours he tells people, “We really should have a sense of urgency in relation to Oscar because he’s 69 and he’s been down in prison 31 years and has received the worst treatment. The reaction has been positive when I say we have to stand up and do something.”



For more information on the fight to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners, visit boricuahumanrights.org and prolibertadweb.tripod.com.

Write Oscar López Rivera in prison: #87651-024, FCI Terre Haute, PO Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

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independence is
a necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda
on the fight
against U.S.
colonial rule

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THE MILITANT

Support from ‘Militant’ appreciated

“The support we received during the lockout from the ‘Militant’ was appreciated. The education in solidarity, priceless!”

—Amanda Chase,
member, Meat Workers Union,
Canterbury Meat Packers,
Rangitikei, New Zealand,
locked out Oct. 19 - Dec. 22, 2011



Militant/Patrick Brown

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Gov't rounds up 3,100 immigrants nationwide

Scapegoated as 'criminals' in anti-worker sweep

BY SETH GALINSKY

As part of Washington's relentless assault on immigrant workers and campaign to paint them criminals, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced April 2 that it had arrested more than 3,100 immigrants in an operation carried out in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and three U.S. territories.

ICE Director John Norton said this "Cross Check" sweep targeted "the arrest and removal of convicted criminal aliens and those that game our nation's immigration system."

This is the government's third "Cross Check," conducted under the rubric of targeting so-called criminal elements. All have taken place under the Barack Obama administration. The relatively new scheme dovetails with the capitalist rulers' stepped-up criminalization of the working class. It's part of a broader campaign by the capitalist rulers to scapegoat and intimidate those who are foreign-born through maintaining their second-class status and dealing blows to working-class solidarity.

According to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement press release, the six-day operation involved 1,900 ICE agents as well as agents from other Homeland Security departments and local cops.

At least 204 of those arrested are now being prosecuted for felony "illegal re-entry after deportation," which carries a possible sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

The press release boasts that 1,477 had felony convictions. More than half of

those picked up have been convicted of no more than misdemeanors. And some have not been convicted of anything.

The numbers of undocumented workers entering the U.S. are way down due to a combination of fewer job opportunities and stricter border controls. Some 1.1 million workers without papers were detained trying to cross the border in 2005, but only 340,000 in 2011.

The Border Patrol now has a record 21,000 agents, mostly at the Mexican border, and uses remote video surveillance and seven unmanned spy drones to find those attempting to cross without papers.

Meanwhile, in early April Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley backed a proposal to revise the states' new anti-immigrant law, which builds on existing federal laws. The Alabama law has been met by protests, including a one-day strike Oct. 12 in poultry plants and other factories, and legal challenges.

The U.S. District Court has granted injunctions on parts of the legislation, including provisions requiring school administrators to determine the legal status of students and their parents.

The proposed revisions are designed to help the law make it through the legal challenges. At the same time, it makes some of the provisions even stricter, including encouraging cops to check the immigration status of everyone in a vehicle once they issue a citation to the driver.

The week before the revisions were introduced into the legislature, the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations announced that the state's



Bosses and their government target immigrants to divide and weaken working class. Above, May Day 2011 demonstration in New York City defending immigrant rights. Similar actions are being organized this year around coming International Workers Day.

official unemployment rate had dropped from 7.8 percent in January to 7.6 percent in February. A year ago it was at 9.3 percent. Similar declines in the official rate were reported in 28 other states.

Trying to convince working people to support the anti-immigrant and anti-worker measures, one of the law's sponsors, state Rep. Micky Hammon, claimed in November that the falling jobless rate was "thanks in part to our decision to crack down on illegal immigration."

Other reports said the drop was due largely to official statistics not counting those unemployed who had recently stopped looking for work.

For workers resisting the bosses'

assaults on our wages and working conditions, it doesn't matter if the claims are true or not. The propertied rulers promote and use job competition among working people to keep us divided and less able to resist these assaults. They use high unemployment and unequal levels in the value of labor power worldwide as levers in this drive. Class-conscious workers know that the only way to combat this is through working-class solidarity. Workers need to join a common fight against the bosses, without regard to nationality or national borders.

In recent years, supporters of immigrant rights have taken to the streets on May 1, the international workers' holiday, to advance this perspective.

Profit drive by NY bosses kills 2 more construction workers

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK—Two workers were killed and six injured at two construction sites here April 3, amid the bosses' drive for profit.

Michael Simermeyer, 30, was killed when a cable snapped and caused the collapse of a crane at a big construction site in Manhattan for the extension of a New York subway line. He was caught under the boom. Three of his coworkers were injured.

The last full inspection of the crane was in July 2011. During a routine check by the Department of Buildings in January the cables were never examined, according to the *New York Post*. The entire section of the report covering 16 checkpoints on the crane's cables was crossed out with an X. Following the collapse an investigation showed defects in the hoisting

system.

Operators are required by city and federal rules to check cranes and cables every workday and perform a more thorough investigation every month.

The same day Santos Garcia, 25, was killed while working on the conversion of a building in Brooklyn. He was climbing a ladder along the building's side when the second-story addition slipped from its foundation and crashed into the neighboring house.

According to the *New York Times*, a preliminary investigation showed that the upper addition had not been secured and the wood had deteriorated over time. Three of Garcia's coworkers were injured.

On March 22 Juan Ruiz, 69, was killed when a building collapsed during demolition work at another big construction site in Manhattan.

Free the Cuban Five! Join 5 days of actions in Washington, D.C.! All out for April 21 protest!

Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René González are five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. since 1998 under trumped-up "conspiracy" charges that include conspiracy to commit espionage. Hernández was also falsely convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and sentenced to double life plus 15 years.

The five were living and working in southern Florida gathering information for the Cuban government on activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups with a long history of violent attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution, with the complicity of Washington.

All but René González remain in prison. He was released last fall after 13 years in jail, but is forced to serve an additional three-year parole in the U.S.

Fernando González is serving 17 years and nine months; Guerrero, 21 years and 10 months; and Labañino, 30 years.

Supporters of the international campaign to free the five have organized a series of activities April 17-21 in the Washington, D.C., area to broaden the fight. These include film showings, discussions of the case, an exhibit of political cartoons by Hernández, a Friday evening public event and an April 21 protest outside the White House. For more information, see <http://www.the-cuban5.org>.

Buses will leave New York for the protest April 21 at 6 a.m. They will bring demonstrators to the 1 p.m. rally and return the same evening. The cost is \$5. To reserve a seat, call (917) 945-9877 or (718) 601-4751, or contact a *Militant* distributor listed on page 6.

—LOUIS MARTIN

Write to the Cuban revolutionary combatants jailed in the U.S.

Fernando González
Reg. #58733-004, FCI Terre Haute
P.O. Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808
➤ Address envelope to "Rubén Campa"

Antonio Guerrero
Reg. #58741-004, FCI Marianna P.O.
Box 7007, Marianna, FL 32447-7007

Gerardo Hernández
Reg. #58739-004, U.S.P. Victorville
P.O. Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301

Ramón Labañino
Reg. #58734-004, FCI Jesup
2680 301 South, Jesup, GA 31599
➤ Address envelope to "Luis Medina"



The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free \$5

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer - \$15 (normally \$20)

From Pathfinder Press
visit www.pathfinderpress.com to
order and for a full online catalogue.

Available from distributors listed on page 6

Join subscription effort

Continued from front page
to areas where Black workers live.

As the chart below shows, initial quotas adopted by distributors of the paper internationally add up to 2,220, just 180 subscriptions shy of the international goal. All distributors should consider whether they are in a position to raise their quotas to close this gap.

In several areas the subscription drive and socialist election campaigns will reinforce each other. (See article on page 9.)

“Members of the Socialist Workers Party in Los Angeles,” writes Arlene Rubinstein, “sold three subscriptions to the *Militant* and one copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* going door to door in the neighborhood where Kendrick McDade, a 19-year-old Black youth, was killed by a Pasadena cop on March 24.” *Militant* supporters showed the paper’s coverage on the protests against the lynching of Trayvon Martin.

“One new subscriber,” reports Rubinstein, “told us how he had just been pulled over by the cops—with guns drawn—that morning when he got off work. Another subscriber, originally from Mexico, said, ‘I’m for justice for Trayvon Martin, he’s not the criminal.’ He described how a bunch of cops had come into his home to question his son about a car accident.”

The day before communist workers sold 23 single copies of the *Militant* and a subscription together with *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* at a regular sale at the port in Wilmington, Calif.

Ellie García sent a note from Los Angeles describing her experience on the job. “In the aerospace plant where I work discussion and debate have broken out around the murder

of Trayvon Martin. One worker said that he doesn’t know the facts, others claim Martin was a gang member. Bringing the *Militant* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* has been welcomed by Martin’s defenders.

“Last week two workers bought subscriptions with *Workers Power* books, one bought the book, and one renewed her subscription after glancing at the headline demanding the arrest of Martin’s killer. Eight single copies of the *Militant* were also picked up,” adds García.

“Of the five subscriptions sold in the Des Moines area last week,” writes Chuck Guerra, “three were going door to door in working-class neighborhoods in Des Moines and Perry, a small town northwest of here with a large meatpacking plant.

“The other two we sold to coworkers on the job, one in combination with the *Workers Power* book. Another coworker who had renewed his subscription during the recent renewal drive also bought the book in Spanish.”

“I share the *Militant* because of its focus,” said Kenneth Logan when he renewed his subscription for six months and requested some subscription forms so he can win more readers to the socialist newsweekly. Logan, a farm worker in Strathroy, Ontario, bought a subscription at a January rally in solidarity with locked-out Caterpillar workers in London, Ontario.

“The people in these pages,” he added, “are fighting for our lives. The news covers not just Canada, but the world. There’s a lot of information on the Internet, unsorted, and we don’t know how credible it really is. The *Militant* is tangible. You can share it with someone and have a conversation about what’s in your hands.”

Logan is a good example of a growing number of workers who see the *Militant* as their paper, sending in news, photos and letters, renewing their subscriptions for longer periods, and circulating it among their rela-

Minnesota action defends women’s right to choose



Militant/Diana Newberry

ST. PAUL, Minn.—A counterprotest of more than 700 people defending a woman’s right to choose abortion demonstrated at the newly relocated Planned Parenthood headquarters here April 6. Several hundred opponents of abortion gathered outside the largest provider of abortion services in the state, part of an annual Good Friday protest called by Pro-Life Action Ministries.

Those defending a woman’s right to choose rallied outside the new offices for eight hours. Many participants, including two young women who bought subscriptions to the paper, said to *Militant* supporters that this was the first time they had participated in such an action. Some came from local high schools and colleges around the state.

Two days later, a small bomb exploded outside a window of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Grand Chute, Wis., damaging the building and an exam room in the clinic.

According to the most recent statistics from the National Abortion Federation, there were 114 violent attacks against abortion providers in 2011, including three physical assaults, one bombing, one arson, 27 cases of vandalism and eight burglaries.

—NATALIE MORRISON

tives, friends, coworkers and union brothers and sisters.

The spring subscription drive coincides with the annual seven-week Militant Fighting Fund effort to raise \$120,000 to cover basic operating expenses such as rent, printing costs and special reporting teams. Asking for contributions to the paper will be a natural part of every subscription team, as the paper is entirely financed by our readers. The second chart below reports initial fund drive goals adopted in some areas. Others are discussing theirs, which will be printed in next week’s issue.

To join the effort to increase the circulation of the socialist newsweekly, contact a distributor listed on page 6 or call the *Militant* office (see page 2) to get a weekly bundle. To make a contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund, contact a distributor or send a check directly to: The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Send reports and photos on experiences selling the *Militant* to workers door to door and elsewhere by 8:00

a.m. Tuesday, EDT, with comments and quotes from new and renewing subscribers.

These are the column’s meat and potatoes.

Spring Subscription Drive April 14 - June 10	
Country	Quota
UNITED STATES	
Atlanta	175
Boston	60
Chicago	165
Des Moines	135
Houston	90
Lincoln	35
Los Angeles	160
Miami	100
New York	260
Philadelphia	90
San Francisco	175
Seattle	185
Twin Cities	145
Washington, D.C.	70
Total U.S.	1,845
UNITED KINGDOM	
Manchester	0
London	130
Total U.K.	130
CANADA	95
NEW ZEALAND	80
AUSTRALIA	70
Total	2,220
Should be	2,400

Militant Fighting Fund April 14 - June 4	
Country	Quota
UNITED STATES	
Atlanta	\$8,600
Boston	\$3,800
Chicago	\$10,000
Des Moines	\$2,200
Houston	\$4,000
Lincoln	\$375
Los Angeles	\$9,000
Miami	\$3,200
New York	\$21,000
Philadelphia	\$4,000
San Francisco	\$15,000
Seattle	\$8,800
Twin Cities	\$6,500
Washington, D.C.	\$7,600
Total U.S.	\$104,075
CANADA	\$7,000
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,500
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500
UNITED KINGDOM	
London	\$0
Manchester	\$0
Total UK	\$0
Total	\$117,075
International Goal	\$120,000

—MILITANT
LABOR
FORUMS—

**NEW YORK
Manhattan**
Our Politics Start With the World. Speaker: Steve Clark, member, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., April 14. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 program, \$7 dinner.
Celebrate 51st Anniversary of Cuba’s Workers and Farmers Victory at Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs. Fri., April 20, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. *Both events at 307 West 36th St., 10th floor (use north elevators).* Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

**WASHINGTON
Seattle**
Why All Workers Need to Defend Legalization for Immigrants: All Out for May 1. Fri., April 20, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. *5418 Rainier Ave. S.* Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

**NEW ZEALAND
Auckland**
Cuba’s Socialist Revolution in Today’s World: Hear Report from Havana International Book Fair. Speaker: Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., April 20, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. *4/125 Grafton Road.* Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

**UNITED KINGDOM
London**
A Working Class Energy Policy: Why Worldwide Electrification and Industrialization Are Necessary. Fri., April 20, 7 p.m. Speaker: Alex Xezonakis, Communist League. Donation: £3. *129 Bethnal Green Road, first floor (entrance in Brick Lane).* Tel.: (020) 7613-2466.

—CALENDAR—
**NEW YORK
Manhattan**
May Day 2012: Rally for Worker & Immigrant Rights. Tues., May 1. Gather at 12 noon, march at 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights. *Union Square, 14th Street and Broadway.* Tel.: (212) 633-6646.

**WASHINGTON
Seattle**
March and Rally for Immigration Reform Now! Tues., May 1. Rally at 3:30 p.m., march at 5 p.m. Sponsored by May 1 Action Coalition. *Gather at St. Mary’s Church, 611 20th Ave.* Tel.: (206) 324-6044.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Sugar workers press fight against 8-month lockout

MINNEAPOLIS—Locked-out sugar workers in Minnesota and North Dakota continue to picket and publicize their fight against the more than eight-month-long lockout by American Crystal Sugar, the largest sugar beet company in the U.S.

Some 1,300 workers were locked out Aug. 1 after voting down a concession contract.

Some 30 of these workers rallied April 4 outside a Fargo, N.D., customer meeting for CoBank, which provides more than \$370 million in credit lines to American Crystal.

“CoBank, by investing in Crystal Sugar, is supporting this lockout and the devastation it’s causing in our communities up and down the Valley,” Nathan Rahm, a locked-out worker from Hillsboro, N.D., told *Workday Minnesota*.

Locked-out workers continue to hold weekly “scab change” rallies to protest American Crystal’s hiring of scabs from Strom Engineering, a notorious anti-labor employment agency.

At the “scab change” rally April 5 at the Drayton, N.D., plant, at least four locked-out workers were ticketed by the Pembina police for not parking behind a line, lacking a date sticker on a license plate and driving with a cracked tail-light. “This was a clear case of intimidation and harassment by the police,” Paul Dahlman, a locked-out worker, told the *Militant* by phone.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union members spoke at a tristate meeting of the Communications Workers union in Grand Forks, N.D., in late March. Mike Nygard, president of CWA Local 7303, said in a phone interview that it “was a real good turnout” when those at the meeting joined sugar workers picketing at the nearby East Grand Forks plant.

Several locked-out workers attended a March 22 meeting on the annual U.S. farm bill sponsored by Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar. An American Crystal Sugar executive was also there. Ken Pazdernik, a regional staffer for the Minnesota Farmers Union, was reported in *Agweek* as saying his organization works for the farmer and “also with labor” and urged the resumption of negotiations, noting that “the people who are being hurt and also the management are here.”

—Tony Lane and Frank Forrestal

SF hospital engineers strike for equal pay

SAN FRANCISCO—Equal pay for equal work. That’s what stationary engi-

neers on strike at four California Pacific Medical Center hospitals here say their fight is about.

The workers, members of Stationary Engineers Local 39, want parity with stationary engineers at other hospitals in the Bay Area. This includes those, like California Pacific, that are affiliated with Sutter Health. The strikers also want to put a stop to the contracting out of work traditionally performed by members of Local 39.

“We’ve been without a contract since October 2010,” Lenard Quock, one of the workers picketing at the California campus, told the *Militant*. “They are trying to break the union. We had to fight.”

“We’ve offered a guaranteed wage increase over three years, which I think in this economy is more than reasonable,” said Kathie Graham, communications director for Sutter Health, in a phone interview. “I can’t speak about the other hospitals.”

Graham said it would not be “fair and reasonable” to give the engineers a higher wage increase than other California Pacific workers are receiving.

Since walking out March 26, the 72 strikers have maintained pickets around the clock at all four campuses. California Pacific has brought in scabs through Strom Engineering, a firm that specializes in strikebreaking, to operate medical equipment as well as heating and air conditioning units.

—Betsey Stone

200 rally to back GE workers’ battle for union recognition

BURLINGTON, Iowa—Some 200 workers from 15 unions rallied in Crapo Park here March 31 to support a “yes” vote in the upcoming union representation election April 11, when 170 General Electric workers will decide whether the Communications Workers of America should represent them.

One GE worker named a few unions present and then asked if there were others in attendance. People in the crowd shouted out the unions they represented: Machinists, Steelworkers, AFSCME, BCTGM, and others. Ruben Martinez, a union member from a GE plant in Texas, was there in solidarity.

On March 12 the National Labor Re-



Militant/Betsey Stone

Striking stationary engineer workers picket California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco April 6. Workers want the same pay that workers doing same jobs get at other hospitals.

lations Board ruled that 170 workers at the GE plant constituted the voting unit. The bosses appealed the decision, wanting to add 27 company personnel to the voting pool. If the appeal is not heard and acted on by April 11, the election will take place, but the votes will be impounded for a later count.

In 2010, GE bosses demanded cost-saving measures in return for keeping the plant open. Production and maintenance workers took pay cuts of 30 to 50 percent.

GE management has been telling workers that voting in the union will take away the “one-to-one” relationship each employee has with the company, Genia Wyatt told the *Burlington Hawk Eye*. “When it comes down to it, it’s more likely to be four to one, and let me tell you, standing alone against those odds can be tough.” Of course, with a union they will be freed from a so-called one-to-one relationship precisely because they will no longer be standing alone.

—Buddy Howard and Maggie Trowe

Workers in UK demand severance after bosses close plant

LIVERPOOL, England—Six weeks after locking out 149 workers Mayr-Melnhof Packaging announced it was

permanently closing its plant here. In a statement the company blamed “a continuing decline in the plant’s international competitiveness.”

Workers, organized by the Unite union, are demanding larger redundancy (severance) payments than the company has offered, and that all workers, including four fired during the lockout, receive the payments. Mayr-Melnhof calls itself the “leading folding carton” company in Europe.

Prior to the Feb. 18 lockout, the workers held a series of one-day strikes protesting the way the company planned to lay off a smaller number of workers without union input.

“They never managed to divide us. We are fighting now to get a decent redundancy,” Allan Clements told the *Militant* at the picket line. Workers are keep the lines up around the clock.

Other unions, local workers and football (soccer) fans are among those who have stopped by the picket line to offer support. “Yesterday, on April 5, we got £7,000 [\$11,100], all in just one day,” said local union treasurer Peter Brown, showing the notebook where all contributions were recorded.

Mayr-Melnhof did not respond to interview requests.

—Catharina Tirsén

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 24, 1987

LOS ANGELES—After working without a contract for nearly four months, workers at Manny Industries finally won a contract. Manny’s manufactures bedspreads and comforters. The plant is organized by the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union.

Last June the company’s owners demanded a 12 percent wage cut, reductions in holidays and vacation time, and changes in medical benefits. Union members immediately began organizing to stop Manny’s takeback drive. Most of the workers at the plant are immigrants from Mexico and Central America.

On several occasions up to 200 workers participated in protest demonstrations outside the plant during their lunch breaks. The cutting department also conducted slowdowns. The company was finally forced to withdraw its initial takeback demands.



April 23, 1962

The flare-up last week between President John F. Kennedy and the U.S. Steel Corporation demonstrates that nationalization of the steel industry is the only way the public interest can be protected against the tiny group of profiteers who control basic steel.

The fact that Kennedy forced U.S. Steel to rescind the \$6-a-ton price increase is permitting him to masquerade as a foe of profiteering. But the net result of the incident will be to strengthen the hand of the steel corporations and big business generally in increasing profits at the expense of the American people.

Kennedy’s intervention was not aimed at the profiteers, but at the labor movement. He hit U.S. Steel’s price rise because it upset his carefully laid plan to establish precedents in the steel industry for government-imposed limitation of demands by labor unions.



April 17, 1937

LANSING, Mich.—Walter P. Chrysler and John L. Lewis have signed a peace treaty running to March 31, 1938. This settles the Chrysler sit-down strike.

The Chrysler Corporation agrees to bargain with the United Automobile Workers of America as the agency for all its members; not to interfere, discriminate, or in any way obstruct or discourage membership in the union; and not to “aid, promote or finance” any organization or group like a company union.

The union agrees not to solicit membership on the corporation’s plant or time. It will neither cause nor allow any member of the union to take part in any stoppage of work or sit-down strikes during the term of the agreement.

Men are to be put back to work as “fast as possible,” with no discrimination against strikers.



‘Open the jail doors or we will close the mill gates’

Below is an excerpt from *American Labor Struggles: 1877-1934* by Samuel Yellen, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for April. It tells the story of 10 important labor battles, including the Lawrence, Mass., textile strike of 1912. Led by Industrial Workers of the World, 20,000 textile workers fought the “Woolen Trust” for 10 weeks, beating the bosses back and winning wage increases. Two leaders, Joseph Ettor and Arturo Giovannitti, were arrested and framed up on charges of being “accessories before the fact” to the shooting of one of the strikers, Anna Lo Pizzo, though neither of them were there when it happened. The trial took place in Salem. Subheadings are by the Militant. Copyright © 1936 by Samuel Yellen.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY SAMUEL YELLEN

As soon as the strike was ended, the Lawrence workers and the I.W.W. took active steps to secure the freedom of the indicted men. An Ettor-Giovannitti Defense Committee of 12 was organized, with William D. Haywood as chairman. Legal, publicity, and financial departments were formed. The financial department collected and expended \$60,000 during the course of the defense. The publicity department helped to form Ettor-Giovannitti Defense Conferences in New York, Brooklyn, Phila-



Textile workers in Lawrence, Mass., face off against state militia called out against their strike in 1912. “Bayonets cannot weave cloth,” declared strike leaders. Strike remained solid, involving tens of thousands, winning national support, leading to victory.

delphia, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and other large cities in the United States. Agitation, by means of protest parades, demonstrations, and meetings, mounted steadily. In New York a huge meeting was addressed on May 21 at Cooper Union by Morris Hillquit. At Boston there was a great demonstration, September 15, on the Common. The wave of agitation, as it swept higher each week, frightened the Lawrence and Massachusetts authorities. Charges of conspiracy to intimidate the workers in various textile mills were brought against Haywood, William Trautmann, William Yates, Ettor Giannini, Edmundo Rossoni, Guido Mazerrel, James P. Thompson, and Thomas Holliday, all of them, curiously enough, members of the Ettor-Giovannitti Defense Committee. Indictments were returned against them, and they were released on bail.

Workers call political strike

Toward the day of the opening of the trial, September 30, there began to spread among the textile workers a strong sentiment for a demonstration strike. Ettor and Giovannitti sent letters to a mass meeting at Lawrence on September 25, requesting that the idea be abandoned, since such a strike might prejudice public opinion and would certainly cost the

workers much misery. Nevertheless, the workers were determined on this means of protest against what they regarded as a crying injustice, and Local 20 of the I.W.W. decided to support them. Accordingly, on September 30 about 15,000 textile workers at Lawrence quit work in a 24-hour demonstration strike. Never before had so revolutionary a strike—in fact, a political strike—occurred in the United States. Mayor Scanlon and the officials were both terrified and infuriated at the threat to the existing government. Police, detectives, and state police were called out. Strikers were brutally clubbed, 14 were arrested. Textile workers at Lowell, Lynn, Haverhill, and other Massachusetts cities voted to call a strike if the trial of Ettor and Giovannitti went wrong. In retaliation for the demonstration strike, the mill owners at Lawrence discharged and blacklisted between 1,500 and 2,000 of the more active strikers. When Haywood and the I.W.W. officials, however, threatened an exodus of textile workers from Lawrence, the blacklist was abandoned and the strikers were reemployed without discrimination. ...

Each day crowds of workers gathered outside the courthouse to cheer the prisoners as they were conducted to and from the trial room. Protests poured in on the court from every part of the country. In

Sweden and France a boycott of American woolen goods was begun. In Italy the Social Union announced the candidacy of Arturo Giovannitti to represent Carpi in the Chamber of Deputies, and the *Corriere d'Italia* called upon the Italian government to make representations to prevent the United States “from committing a repugnant injustice.” The demonstration strike had focused the attention of the world on Salem.

The prosecution, in the 58 days of trial, attempted to prove that Ettor and Giovannitti had incited the strikers, and hence Caruso, to violence and murder; but both the evidence and witnesses presented were easily discredited. ... It was soon apparent that there was no evidence on which to convict.

‘Mighty army of working class’

Since the prosecution had often assailed their political and economic principles, Ettor and Giovannitti requested and received permission to deliver closing speeches to the jury. They made no attempt to conceal, euphemize, or soften their unalterable and fundamental opposition to the existing order of society. Giovannitti, indeed, declared:

Let me tell you that the first strike that breaks again in this Commonwealth or any other place in America where the work and the help and the intelligence of Joseph J. Ettor and Arturo Giovannitti will be needed and necessary, there we shall go again, regardless of any fear and of any threat. We shall return again to our humble efforts, obscure, unknown, misunderstood soldiers of this mighty army of the working class of the world, which, out of the shadows and the darkness of the past, is striving towards the destined goal, which is the emancipation of human kind, which is the establishment of love and brotherhood and justice for every man and every woman on this earth.

On Tuesday morning, November 26, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Ettor and Giovannitti, free once more after 10 months in jail, were cheered and embraced by crowds outside the courthouse. That afternoon they addressed a mass meeting at Lawrence, at which more than 10,000 workers hailed them and celebrated the completion of the Lawrence strike victory, the accomplishment of their display of solidarity.

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April BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Trayvon Martin protests

Continued from front page

decided not to send the case to a grand jury, which had been tentatively set to convene the following day. Her decision rules out the possibility that Zimmerman will be charged with first-degree murder. It remains to be seen whether she will file murder or other charges.

Martin was walking to his father's fiancée's house where he was visiting Feb. 26 when Zimmerman started following him, telling a police dispatcher there was a "real suspicious guy" walking through the gated community. Martin tried to run away and Zimmerman followed him, according to what Zimmerman told 911.

It is unclear whether Martin tried to defend himself before he was gunned down. According to the police report, Martin, who was unarmed, punched Zimmerman and knocked him to the ground. Zimmerman claims he shot Martin in the chest in self-defense. He was taken to police headquarters, questioned and released without charges that same night.

Determined not to let the case be swept under the rug, Martin's parents held a press conference following his funeral March 3 in Miami. Because of their insistence, the Sanford police were pressured to release recordings of 911 calls related to the case in mid-March, shedding more light on what actually happened and fueling outrage and protests across the country.

Militant correspondents visited working-class neighborhoods in this city of 53,000 just north of Orlando April 7.

The killing of Trayvon Martin "shook my foundation," said Nancy McClure, who works as a building cleaner. "I hope the protests make a difference, and that the kid didn't die in vain." McClure is Caucasian and lives in a mixed neighborhood. "You know if the colors were switched it would be different," and the killer would be arrested. She also described several run-ins she and her teenage son have had with the Sanford police.

"If I do anything they'll lock me up," Titus Manning told *Militant* correspondents outside a store a few blocks from the Sanford Police Department in the Black community of Goldsboro. "Zimmerman was supposed to go to jail and the judge decides whether there's probable cause, not the police."

Manning, who works constructing fountains, said three people were recently shot in the neighborhood and the police have done little to investigate.

"If you're playing music too loud they're right on you," his friend Eugene Cain declared.

Zimmerman's lawyers withdrew from his defense April 10, saying they had lost contact with him and he was acting on his own without their advice. The day before, he set up his own website called "The Real George Zimmerman." It has a PayPal account for people to send him money.

On an Album page two pictures were posted, including one of graffiti scrawled on the side of the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center at Ohio State University saying, "Long live Zimmerman." The graffiti was sprayed April 8, the day after students there held a rally in memory of Martin.

The photo was taken down April 10. Several dozen students and other

youth, calling themselves the Dream Defenders, marched three days from Daytona to Sanford April 6-8.

"This was the thing that triggered that I had to do something for justice," Daniel Agnew, a 22-year-old cook in Charlotte, N.C., told the *Militant* at a church where the group stopped to rest after the second day of their walk. Other participants came from campuses across Florida, Morehouse College in Atlanta and elsewhere.

"We're getting five or six thumbs up and honks of support for every negative reaction" walking down the highway said Terray Rollins, a student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee. He said students at his campus decided to contact others and initiate a march after seeing the protests in the news. They staged a sit-in in front of the Sanford police station the morning of April 9, calling for Zimmerman's arrest and the firing of Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee, who temporarily stepped aside as the protests mounted.

According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, dozens of supporters of Police Chief Lee turned out for the Sanford City Commission meeting April 9. "During the public comment phase at the end of the meeting, about half of those who spoke voiced support for Lee, while others denounced him," the paper reported.

The annual April 4 event in Miami marking the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. became a rally of 2,500 demanding justice for Trayvon Martin. "We'll be marching for many years," Ethel Bynes, a restaurant worker, told the *Militant*. "I thought there was justice, but I guess there's not." She came after hearing about the rally on a popular radio show.

"Trayvon used to spend the night at my house. My son is 17 and they were friends," Krystal Cook said. Martin had lived in Miami Gardens with his mother.

Outside the International Longshoremen's Association's union hall in Fort Lauderdale April 9, several workers said they had taken part in protests against the lynching of Martin. Cedric Titus lives near Carol City High School in Miami Gardens, where hundreds of students walked out March 22. "I saw them on TV and went over and talked with them," he said. "Those kids were awesome. I



Militant/Mary Martin

Antonio Flores of the May 1st Coalition holds sign in Spanish saying, "Justice for Trayvon Martin. No more lynchings" at April 7 Seattle march called by NAACP.



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Some 500 people marched through the streets of Hackensack, N.J., April 4 to condemn the killing of Trayvon Martin by neighborhood watch vigilante George Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla. "Things like this just can't be allowed to happen," said bus operator Frederick Peters. "We want this guy prosecuted now."

was upset more adults weren't there to help them get more organized."



Hackensack, N.J.

Some 500 people marched here on April 4 to demand justice for Trayvon Martin. The protest, called by nearly a dozen churches and religious organizations in the area, was organized to coincide with the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Following a march of more than a mile and a half, participants held a rally on the Bergen County Courthouse steps.

Raymere Grant, a senior at Lodi High School, came with two friends. "We're here to respect Trayvon. George Zimmerman should go to jail," he said, referring to the man who shot and killed Martin. "They try to blame Trayvon, saying he got suspended from school or was hitting Zimmerman. But I know at my school, kids get suspended all the time for nothing. And even if he did hit Zimmerman, that doesn't give him the right to kill him."

Frederick Peters has been a bus operator for New Jersey Transit for 19 years. He and his wife came to the protest. "There's lots of discussion at work," he said. "Things like this just can't be allowed to happen. We want this guy prosecuted now. We have zero tolerance for this."

Jeffrey Frierson marched together with his teenage son Brandon Izzo. "I came to support Trayvon's family. I can't even imagine if it was my son. We've got to make sure that justice is served," Frierson said. "I can't believe he shot a kid and he still hasn't been arrested. It wouldn't happen like this if the shooter was Black and the kid was white," Izzo added.



Seattle

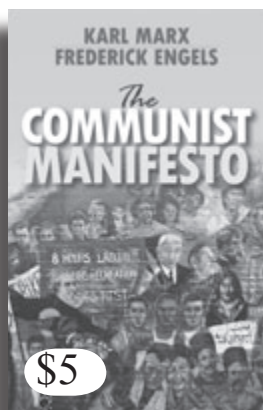
Some 200 people marched from Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle's historic African-American Central District to downtown on April 7 for a rally to demand Justice for Trayvon Martin. The action was called by the Seattle and King County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Speakers included James Bible, president of the local NAACP, and Cedric President-Turner, who is Trayvon Martin's cousin. Turner, 18, is a student at Henry Foss High School in Tacoma.

People shouldn't have to die because of the color of their skin or because someone thinks they are "suspicious," Turner told the crowd. "This could have been me. We have to stand up for justice if we are going to live free. I am going to keep on doing this."

"There are moments in time that shock a nation's consciousness," stated Bible. "This is one of these moments. From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin with a lot of people in between we say we will not back down. Prepare to march all summer!"

—Mary Martin



"Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers."

—Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written by Marx and Engels in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is not a set of preconceived principles but the line of march of the working class toward power, "springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes."

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New Orleans cops to serve time for Katrina slayings

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

NEW ORLEANS—"It was a long struggle. It took over six years of continuing to fight for justice," said Romell Madison, speaking to a rally called by the New Orleans NAACP on April 7. "Now we can finally say that the New Orleans police officers who killed my brother Ronald along with James Brissette, and shot the four others on the Danziger Bridge will spend time in jail for their crimes."

Five former New Orleans cops were sentenced April 4 to prison terms for shooting six people on that bridge Sept. 4, 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and then organizing a cover-up of their crimes.

A federal jury here convicted the police officers Aug. 5, 2011. Sgt. Kenneth Bowen, Sgt. Robert Gisevius, Officer Anthony Villavaso and former cop Robert Faulcon were convicted of federal civil rights violations for killing 17-year-old James Brissette and shooting four others. Faulcon was found guilty of shooting 40-year-old Ronald Madison. Bowen was convicted for stomping Madison as he lay dying.

The officers also shot at Lance Madison and Jose Holmes and then tried to frame them for shooting at the officers, a claim proven false in the trial evidence and eyewitness testimony.

Faulcon got 65 years in prison; Bowen and Gisevius got 40 years each; and Villavaso 38 years. Retired Sgt. Arthur Kaufman, who led the coverup, which included fabricating witnesses, planting a gun and falsifying reports, got a six-year prison term.

Speaking at the sentencing, Lance Madison said to Kaufman, "You tried to frame me, a man you knew was innocent, and send me to prison for the rest of my life," according to AP reports. Lance Madison was arrested and charged with attempted murder as his brother lay dying on the bridge. He spent three weeks in jail.

"It won't bring our brother back," Romell Madison told the rally of 75 people. "But the sentencing shows that if you organize, and if you stick with it, it's possible to get some element of justice."

"That's my advice for the Sipp and Allen families here," he concluded. "Don't give up."

Justin Sipp and Wendell Allen, both 20, were killed by New Orleans cops last month.

Allen was killed March 7 when police stormed his mother's home. Officer Joshua Colclough shot him in the chest as Allen walked across the room in his

pajamas. The cops tried to justify their actions by saying they had gotten a tip about drugs at the location.

Sipp was going to work at Burger King with his brother Earl before 6 a.m. March 1. Officers stopped their car, shot and killed Justin, and wounded Earl. Police now claim that the two young men were actually the shooters.

Jason Giroir, one of the officers who shot Justin, was forced to resign from the force last week over racist comments he posted online in response to a WWL-TV article about a rally supporting Trayvon Martin. He wrote, "Act like a Thug Die like one!" After another reader, Eddie Johnson, criticized his comment, Giroir wrote, "Eddie come on down to our town with a 'Hoodie' and you can join Martin in HELL and talk about your racist stories."

Relatives of the two young men, including Earl Sipp and Wendell Allen's mother Natasha, spoke at the meeting, appealing for support.

Sipp told the *Militant* that he was fired from Burger King after he got out of the hospital. "They dismissed me because they said I would have a 'negative impact' on Burger King. My brother and I are the ones who got shot for trying to go work, and they say I'm the one with a negative impact!"

"I didn't know going to work was a crime for young men, punishable by a death sentence dealt in the street," Earl's



AP Photo/Gerald Herbert

Demonstrators outside federal courthouse in New Orleans Aug. 5, 2011, celebrate conviction of cops in murders of James Brissette and Ronald Madison and wounding of four others crossing Danziger bridge in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina Sept. 4, 2005.

father told the *Militant*.

Both families participated in a rally March 31 of several hundred people demanding justice, said Natasha Allen.

Also speaking at the meeting were other victims of police violence, including Robert Goodman, whose brother Ronald was killed by the New Orleans police department's SWAT team at the family's home in the Algiers section of town in May 2006.

New Orleans NAACP President Danatus King Jr. urged everyone to build a march and rally for justice for Justin Sipp, Wendell Allen, and Trayvon Martin April 21 at 10 a.m., beginning at

Louis Armstrong Park in Congo Square and marching to City Hall. "We have a victory this week as guilty officers are headed to jail," he said. "Let's carry this forward to get justice."

Latoya Lewis, who attends Southern University here, told the *Militant* that she will encourage other students to join the April 21 protest. "I was part of the March 31 rally. It was powerful. Everyone could see our signs and hear our voices. People are still getting killed so we need to be out there demonstrating."

Michael Fitzsimmons contributed to this article.

Newburgh, NY: 'cops will answer for murder'

Continued from front page

port. They neither buy the cops' story of what happened nor accept their excuses for the killing.

In meetings of the City Council, in a press conference by the cops, in several demonstrations outside City Hall, in speak-outs and a public hearing, the family and supporters have maintained that this was murder. They demand a special investigation, because they don't trust Orange County District Attorney Frank Phillips.

Chased by four cops, Lembhard fled into his sister's house, closing the door behind him. When the cops followed him inside he retreated into the kitchen. His sister, Cherry Lembhard, was upstairs and heard the cops kick the door open. According to the *Times Herald-Record*, she heard her brother say, "Do what you want. Get it done and over with."

At a press conference March 9, Newburgh Police Chief Michael Ferrara claimed that Lembhard had grabbed a kitchen knife, held it to his throat and threatened suicide. Then he suddenly turned and charged the cops with the knife. They opened fire striking him numerous times.

Ferrara added that "once he grabbed the knife, he changed the rules," according to the *Newburgh Circle*.

Michael Sussman, the family's lawyer, said at a public hearing "that his body took 9 bullets, 20 shots were fired. There were bullet holes high, low, walls, floor, sofa."

Myleeka Pittman, 21, lives next to the house where Michael Lembhard was killed. She has joined in protests with

the Lembhard family. "My cousin Nate Cobbs was killed by the Newburgh police in 2007," Pittman told the *Militant*. "We're fighting for some justice here." An autopsy report states Cobbs died from injuries after he was beaten, Tasered and attacked by police dogs.

Some 50 people turned out for a public hearing called by Sussman April 7. The majority were from the Lembhard family. But members of other families joined in to speak about killings by cops in this city of some 28,000 people 67 miles north of New York. The town is just over 30 percent African-American and about 42 percent Hispanic.

Gail McDoe's son, Dionte Jones, 16, died after crashing into a facility full of flammable liquids and gases while being chased by the police in 2005. She said the cops left him to die in the burning car.

Omari Shakur also spoke. His son Antonio Bryant was killed by Newburgh cops at the age of 23 in 2006. "When my son was killed, no one stood up. When Nate Cobbs was killed, no one stood up. Thank the Lembhard family for putting up a fight. It has brought attention to all those killings. No special prosecutor is going to do anything, until we do something. We are going to have to be in the streets."

Shakur had just attended a protest around the Trayvon Martin case in nearby Poughkeepsie.

Many spoke about cop harassment. Gosford Lembhard Jr., Michael's older brother, related an experience from last year. "I was in a car with my wife and two friends," he said. "The Newburgh police stopped us, ordered us out and put

us in handcuffs with their guns drawn. After a while they let us go, saying it was a mistake. I think about that every time I see a cop. We filed a complaint with the police, but it never went anywhere."

"They pull you over, file some charges, put you in jail for a couple of hours or a couple of days, then let you out and drop the charges," said Michael Lembhard's cousin, Harry Banks. "Before long—the same story. Happens all the time. All the time."

"What next?" said Harry Coolidge, the brother of Arlene Lembhard, Michael's mother. "We're not backing off. They murdered him and they will answer for it."

Harry's brother George pointed down the street. "I grew up down there. So did my grandfather, and his father before him. This is Newburgh's east side, called the ghetto. We've been here for 100 years. We're not going away. We're a big family, and we're a tough family."

Members of the tight Lembhard/Coolidge family are both Black and Caucasian. Michael's mother Arlene is Caucasian, his father Gosford is Black. Several other couples in the more than 100-strong family are also mixed.

After the hearing, Edith King, Arlene's sister, passed out fliers urging people to come to a meeting April 9 to press the demand that "a special prosecutor investigate the death of Michael Lembhard."

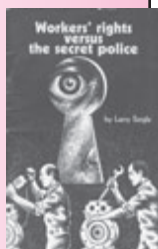
Gov. Andrew Cuomo has denied this demand. Orange County District Attorney Phillips has said he'll bring the case to a grand jury.

Paul Mailhot contributed to this article.

Workers' Rights versus the Secret Police

by Larry Seigle

Since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups.—\$5



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Socialist Workers candidates join working-class struggles

BY JOHN STUDER

Socialist Workers party candidates are taking the campaign to factory gates, demonstrations demanding prosecution of Trayvon Martin's killer, in working class neighborhoods and at other political events.

In Des Moines, Iowa, David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Iowa's 3rd District, spoke at an NAACP-sponsored rally April 1 demanding that the vigilante that murdered Martin be charged.

"The capitalist rulers respond to their crisis by attacking our rights, living standards, and working conditions," Rosenfeld said in a flyer distributed at the rally. "When workers stand up and resist—on the picket lines and protesting in the streets—we build confidence in our own power. As we strengthen working-class unity against racism, sexism and anti-immigrant attacks, we will advance our fighting capacity and discover our worth."

There are three SWP candidates running in Iowa, Rosenfeld, Margaret Trowe for Iowa State Senate in the 18th District, and Helen Meyers for State House in District 36.

Trowe traveled with supporters to join a rally of 160 members of Teamsters Local 371 on strike against the Nichols Aluminum plant in Davenport, Iowa, March 26. They have been on strike since January.

Dan Barry, a shop steward who recently subscribed to the *Militant*, welcomed Trowe to the protest. "I really like the articles in that paper," he said, "especially the one on capitalism and how joblessness is a necessary product of the crisis. It's really true. And fights like ours are happening all over, not just here in the United States."

Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 7th District of Illinois, centered in Chicago's West Side, took the campaign door to door there, in the area near where 22-year-old Rekia Boyd was shot to death by an off-duty Chicago detective March 21.

Most residents knew about the shooting and supported the demand Richter raised that the detective be charged and arrested for murder.

John Hawkins, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 1st District, also in Chicago, was one of three speakers at a Militant Labor Forum March 31, entitled "The Lynching of Trayvon Martin and the Criminalization of the Working Class." Also on the panel were Steven Watts and Bishop Lance Davis, who are

active in the fight against the Calumet City cop killing of Stephon Watts, Steven's 15-year-old son.

"My son was killed on February 1 and on February 21 Trayvon Martin was killed," Watts told the meeting. The cops "came into my house and shot my son right before my very eyes."

Some 700 people turned out for Stephon Watts' funeral and over a hundred marched from the Calumet City police station to city hall to demand charges against the cops who shot him.

The SWP in Houston launched four candidates at the beginning of April, Jacquie Henderson for U.S. Senate, Cindy Jaquith for Congress in the 9th District, Steve Warshell in the 18th District and Mike Fitzsimmons in the 29th District.

Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Washington state governor, has spoken at two rallies demanding the arrest of Trayvon Martin killer there.

Communist candidates are running in other countries as well. Paul Davies, a factory worker and member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, is the Communist League candidate for the City and East constituency in the Greater London Assembly.

"Our campaign begins not with London, but with the world," Davies told people on the street there as he spoke through a bullhorn. "It begins with how working people can organize and fight to respond to deepening assaults by the capitalist rulers and their parties—Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour."

New Zealand port workers beat back lockout

Continued from front page

"flexible" work schedules. These could mean shifts lasting anywhere from three to 12 hours, and start times being changed on just five hours' notice. On March 7, Ports of Auckland announced it would fire the workers, and shortly after hired firms Drake New Zealand and AWF Group to replace them with nonunion stevedores.

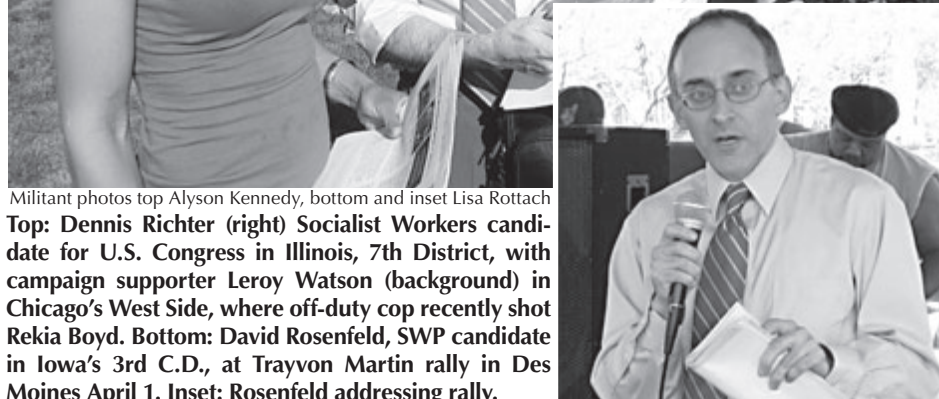
On March 22, union members voted to end their strike after the company gave informal agreement to the Employment Court to halt contracting out of their jobs. Ports of Auckland then, however, locked them out. Five days later the court issued an injunction suspending the contracting out until a further hearing is held on May 16.

The company's March 30 agreement to lift the lockout and return to bargaining came just ahead of a further court hearing on the union's claim that the lockout was illegal.

When worker correspondents for the *Militant* visited the picket line March 30, port workers were preparing to celebrate and were waving rewritten placards saying "Thank you Auckland" to sustained tooting from rush hour traffic.

"It's a step in the right direction. But it's not a victory until we walk back and reach resolution with a collective document," said Danny Belsham, 60, a leading hand with 30 years on the wharf.

During the five-week strike and lockout, the company claimed to be operating the port at 30 percent of normal



Militant photos top Alyson Kennedy, bottom and inset Lisa Rottach
Top: Dennis Richter (right) Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Illinois, 7th District, with campaign supporter Leroy Watson (background) in Chicago's West Side, where off-duty cop recently shot Rekia Boyd. Bottom: David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate in Iowa's 3rd C.D., at Trayvon Martin rally in Des Moines April 1. Inset: Rosenfeld addressing rally.

capacity with 57 nonunion workers and management staff, but was forced to limit container operations to imports as union members in other countries vowed not to service ships loaded by nonunion workers.

Ports of Auckland hired public relations firm SweeneyVesty, launched a website called "Need for change," and took out several full-page newspaper advertisements to appeal for support for its union-busting campaign.

The Maritime Union's pickets at the container terminal, on a busy city street, attracted substantial solidarity and financial support from other unions and working people. Pickets told of supporters stopping by and dropping off food and donating money.

During the lockout the picket line was boosted by workers on strike against the Oceania chain of retirement homes; meat workers locked out last year by Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei; meat workers currently locked out by AFFCO; and fellow port workers from the Maritime Union of Australia and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in the United States. Four players and a coach from the Canterbury Bulldogs rugby league team from Sydney, Australia, visiting for a match joined the picket March 18.

The secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, Paddy Crumlin, visited the picket March 29 and presented a check for NZ\$100,000 (\$82,000).

"The international solidarity was un-

precedented and had a major bearing on the progressive resolution" of the dispute, said Belsham.

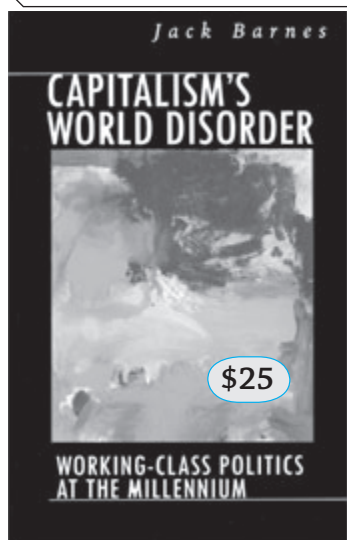
Businesses were feeling the pressure from the port shutdown. Importers' Institute Secretary Daniel Silva said March 16 that its members were spending millions of dollars railing freight to Auckland from other ports, and a "strike surcharge" imposed by shipping line Maersk was due to be increased.

On March 30, Auckland Chambers of Commerce head Michael Barnett noted that the dispute was "becoming an issue affecting the health of many thousands of businesses directly and of the New Zealand economy as a whole." Auckland is New Zealand's largest container port and is owned by the city council.

In announcing the settlement, Ports of Auckland Chief Executive Tony Gibson said the port company had listened to the "views of the mayor and all other stakeholders." But he insisted that the company was still determined to change what he called "historic work practices and restrictions which are out of touch with today's reality." The contracting out proposal "is still there, but for now it's on hold," he said.

"We're locking down one picket and joining another," said Belsham, as Maritime Union members made plans to join picket lines of meat workers still locked out by AFFCO in the coming days. "As they pledged solidarity to us, we will return the favor. We'll do whatever it takes to help resolve that issue."

Recommended reading



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Keep marching, keep pressure on!

It has been seven weeks since the racist lynching of Trayvon Martin—and yet, no arrest, no charges. The one and only reason Florida authorities have not dropped the case and the federal government is even paying attention is because of the scope of the fight in the streets demanding the arrest and prosecution of George Zimmerman, Martin’s killer.

This battle is an important part of the resistance today to the assaults by the bosses and their government on our livelihoods, unions, working conditions and rights, from the picket lines to the increasing fights against police brutality.

The bosses are driven to attack us because their system faces a historic crisis driven by declining rates of profit and shrinking production and trade.

As part of their offensive, they seek to deepen divisions among workers—employed and jobless, Black and white, men and women, native-born and immigrant—and weaken our unity, solidarity and fighting capacity.

Built right into the cake of the social relations of U.S. capitalism is the national oppression of African-Americans. The lynching of Martin and cop cover-up of it show one way in which this oppression is reinforced today as part of the assault on the

working class.

The enormous expansion in the number of workers in prison, longer sentences, coercive plea-bargain system, “stop and frisk” are also part of this anti-working-class offensive. Here again it comes down in a vastly disproportionate way on workers who are Black.

But far from cowed, workers are increasingly finding ways to resist. The widespread response among workers and others to the lynching of Trayvon Martin points to the opportunity to mobilize broad protests, attracting all who feel the lash of the rulers’ offensive.

We place no reliance on the bosses’ government or their legal system. Their decision on what to do next will be weighed above all else on the price they will be forced to pay for continued inaction.

As Romell Madison recently told a rally in New Orleans following the sentencing of cops who killed his brother Ronald in 2005, “It won’t bring our brother back, but the sentencing shows that if you organize and if you stick with it, it’s possible to get some element of justice.” (See article on page 8.)

Join actions around the country demanding the arrest of Zimmerman. Keep the pressure on!

Protest called against Chicago cop killing

BY JOHN HAWKINS

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill.—Friends and family of Darrin “Dagwood” Hanna, who died Nov. 13, a week after being beaten by six North Chicago cops, have joined with other opponents of police brutality to call an April 21 march and rally here.

Nearly every week since Hanna’s killing dozens of people in North Chicago and from surrounding communities have joined Gloria Carr, Hanna’s mother, and Ralph Peterson, Hanna’s cousin, at meetings of the North Chicago City Council to demand prosecution of the six cops involved and to shine a spotlight on other instances of cop brutality in this predominantly Black working-class town in Lake County, about 35 miles north of Chicago.

The call for the demonstration comes in the wake of recent developments that clearly indicate Lake County officials intend to whitewash Hanna’s killing.

On Feb. 22 Muriel Collison and Kevin O’Connor, attorneys for Hanna’s mother and son, who have filed a wrongful death suit in federal court, announced at a downtown Waukegan news conference results of an independent autopsy done on Hanna’s body.

The results showed that Hanna died from “sickle cell crisis” and “multisystem organ failure” brought on by “multiple blunt traumas.” In addition to severe bruises Hanna sustained during the beating, he also suffered hemorrhages of the abdomen, chest and spleen.

“It was a cascade of events but the beating got the ball rolling,” O’Connor told the new conference. “The beating triggered a sickle cell event.” Collison added, “No beating, no death.”

The two attorneys noted the slowness of the Lake County Coroner’s Office in releasing the results of its autopsy. “It took us three weeks, it’s taken them four months,” O’Connor said.

Five days after results of the independent autopsy became public, North Chicago Police Chief Michael Newsome retired. He had been placed on administrative leave since Jan. 3.

As many here had come to expect, the March 8 announcement of the Lake County Coroner’s report shifted the blame for Hanna’s death away from the cops. While withholding details of the report from the public, Lake County Coroner Artis Yancey issued a statement claiming a “combination of complications” caused Hanna’s death, including: “Acute and chronic cocaine abuse, physical trauma and restraint, Taser restraint, poorly controlled hypertension and chronic renal insufficiency.”

“Each of these factors placed Mr. Hanna in sickle cell crisis causing multi-organ failure,” Yancey said.

On March 20 Lake County prosecutors announced they would not charge the cops who beat Hanna.

The April 21 demonstration will assemble at noon at North Chicago High School, 717 17th St., and step off at 12:30 p.m. for a rally at City Hall.

THE MILITANT

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LETTERS

‘A much trustworthy source of information’

Thank you for my initial subscription to the *Militant*! I like the *Militant* because it exposes the disaster of capitalism and reports

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on workers resistance to exploitation and oppression around the world. It is a much more trustworthy source than the mainstream media.

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As a prisoner, not only do I read the *Militant* to stay informed about labor struggles; I use it to improve my Spanish and to teach other Spanish-speaking prisoners English.

I’d like to thank the generous donors who made my subscription possible and encourage anyone with the interest of working people in their heart to subscribe. Also, thank you for offering the *Militant* at a reduced rate for prisoners.

*A prisoner
South Carolina*

N.Y. cop spying

Continued from front page

nents of police spying on how to effectively defend political rights and push back the unrelenting encroachments on them by the government.

The NYPD defends spying and infiltration operations on the pretext of fighting “terrorism.”

Among the targets of the NYPD were the family of Sean Bell and organizations that supported its campaign to prosecute the cop who killed him. On Nov. 25, 2006, Bell, who was unarmed, was gunned down by five undercover cops while sitting in his car. Trent Benefield and Joseph Guzman were wounded.

One report from the NYPD Intelligence Division read: “Members from the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement NYC Chapter along with Critical Resistance and members of the Sean Bell family will attend the outcome of the Sean Bell case as well as a demonstration scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2008.” That day the killer cops were acquitted by a Queens Supreme Court judge in a nonjury trial.

The police department’s documents show it was concerned about community reaction to the verdict. One report advised cop spies to be “alert to any rhetoric re: the Sean Bell verdict,” and shows they were spying on the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, the New Black Panther Party and other groups.

In a March 28 statement, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement “condemns the targeting and harassment of community organizations by the New York Police Department.” It also points out that “the political prisoners we work to free were targeted by these same tactics over 30 years ago under COINTELPRO.”

The police report lists a number of other political groups it kept tabs on, including the War Resisters League, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition NYC, May 1st Coalition and the International Action Center.

Many of these organizations held a press conference here March 28 where they condemned the program and called for “greater NYPD oversight, transparency and accountability.”

Many political and civil libertarian groups point to modifications of the so-called Handschu guidelines established in 1985 as the root of the problem and call for their reinstatement as a solution.

Handschu guidelines

After exposure of widespread spying and disruption against labor and political organizations in the 1960s and ’70s, a suit was brought against the NYPD in May 1971 for infiltration, surveillance and harassment directed against political organizations and individuals.

It was known as the Handschu case, after Barbara Handschu, a civil rights lawyer who was one of the political activists who filed the suit. The case was settled with a consent decree in 1985 that set down some procedural guidelines the cops were to follow when targeting and infiltrating political groups.

It established a special three-member panel to authorize political spying, composed of the First Deputy Commissioner of the Police Department, the Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters of the Police Department, and a civilian member appointed by the mayor upon consultation with the Police Commissioner.

The Socialist Workers Party was one of a number of political groups and activists that fought to overturn the settlement. Others included the National Lawyers Guild, Communist Party, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, National Conference of Black Lawyers and jailed Black Panther Party member Richard Dhoruba Moore.

An article in the *Militant* from May 8, 1981, explains the SWP’s position:

“The result of the settlement would be to legitimize previously illegal police activity. Under its guidelines, police can investigate any political group it thinks is ‘engaged in, about to engage in or has threatened to engage in conduct which constitutes a crime.’”

The major backer of the settlement was the New York Civil Liberties Union. It agreed with the cops that political investigations should be permitted whenever the cops could make a case that it might help stopping “criminal acts.”

A year after Sept. 11, 2001, the NYPD went to court to have the guidelines “modified” in order to “combat terrorism.” Such modifications have been made since, but the Handschu guidelines retain their use as political cover for the cops.